

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water

Announcement Regarding Acceptable Sample Methods for Total Coliform Monitoring in Recycled Water

This announcement is being distributed to notify laboratories that the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) will now certify laboratories for the analysis of recycled water samples by the total coliform methods listed in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) Part 141 for these types of recycled water:

- Disinfected secondary-23 (as defined in Title 22 California Code of Regulations [CCR], Section 60301.225),
- Disinfected secondary-2.2 (as defined in Title 22 CCR, Section 60301.220),
- Disinfected tertiary (as defined in Title 22 CCR. Section 60301.230).

All results must be numerated before reporting. All other types of recycled waters must be analyzed using methods listed in 40 CFR 136.

The 40 CFR Part 141 total coliform methods are found in ELAP Field of Testing 101: Microbiology of Drinking Water. The applicability to the Recycled Water types listed above will be designated by an asterisk (*) next to the method. Laboratories currently certified for these methods do not need to amend their certificate before beginning to analyze samples; laboratories not currently certified for these methods must first apply and become accredited. For application instructions, visit ELAP's [website](#).

Acceptable Total Coliform Methods for Disinfected Secondary and Tertiary Recycled Waters	
40 CFR 141 (Found on FOT 101)	40 CFR 136 (Found on FOT 107)
SM 9221 B,C	SM 9221 B
SM 9222 B	SM 9222 B
SM 9223 B Colilert	
SM 9223 B Colilert-18	
SM 9223 B Colisure	
m-ColiBlue 24	
EPA 1604	

Approved: 05/20/2016



FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Background

ELAP certifies laboratories using the EPA-approved methods listed in 40 CFR 136 for Wastewater and 40 CFR 141 for Drinking Water. However, 40 CFR does not currently list any methods for analyzing Recycled Water. Historically, ELAP has certified laboratories to test Recycled Water using Wastewater methods found in 40 CFR 136.

The Division of Drinking Water's Recycled Water Unit has determined that disinfected secondary and tertiary recycled waters meet the standards of Title 22 CCR and have a water quality much higher than that of wastewater. Therefore, total coliform sample matrices of these recycled waters are similar to samples approved for 40 CFR 141, and may be analyzed by those methods.

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